

Dartmouth Class of 1968 Executive Committee
Unapproved minutes from meeting of October 12, 2019
Dartmouth Alumni Center

In attendance in person: David Peck, Dick Olson, Gerry Bell, David Walden, Norm Silverman, Peter Fahey, Ron Weiss, Roger Witten, Cedric Kam, Steve Calvert, Dan Bort. Attending through Zoom teleconferencing were Joe Nathan Wright, Pete Wonson, Peter Hofman, Mark Waterhouse, Jim Lawrie, Roger Arvid Anderson, Tom Stonecipher, Bill Rich and Bob Ross.

Class president David Peck called the class committee meeting to order at 10:01 October 12, 2019.

On a motion from Gerry Bell, seconded by Roger Anderson, the minutes from the August 10, 2019 meeting were approved with one correction: adding Joe Nathan Wright's last name.

1. The class discussed a first draft set of principles to guide class supported projects and gifts put together by Tom Stonecipher and Bob Ross.

Gerry Bell had emailed a projection of investment scenarios and how the class might want to allocate the distributions given the current class treasury is \$202,000 and that currently the class is spending \$10,000 a year less than it is taking in.

Gerry said the big question is overall objective for dispensing wealth: reducing it over our life expectancy or making occasional gifts but leaving something substantial at the end—maybe for the freshman trips. Dave Peck says under our current constitution whatever is left goes to college.

David Walden said we could have the equivalent of a class will.

David Peck said if we keep dues at the current level (\$75 a year), our assets will exceed our expenses. Or we could lower them to break even.

The discussion then turned to the nature of the class's relationship to the college.

Ron Weiss pointed out that the class is a supporting organization to the college. After a discussion of our need to comply with tax law, Pete Fahey suggested we simply include language "in accordance with applicable law."

Roger Andersen added that the college wants a say in projects. And that before, we spend a lot of time, we should make sure it's something the college actually wants. Fortunately, the college does want the Douglass bust project which Roger has been spearheading.

David Peck said he thought Tom and Bob had drafted a good set of principles: "We'll review them at our next meeting," Peck concluded.

2. Then the discussion turned to a discussion of the writing program at Dartmouth. David Peck introduced three guests: Jennifer Sargent, Jed Dobson who is director of the Institute for Writing

and Rhetoric, and Dennis Washburn who is associate dean of the faculty for interdisciplinary programs.

Jen Sargent, an adopted member of our class, said the institute was not asking class for any money and in fact was withdrawing an earlier proposal in total. She said the college wants to make the program different and a national model.

She said the writing and rhetoric classes are taught entirely by adjunct faculty who are not on tenure track and therefore don't get benefits which makes it hard to retain faculty. Also, she said the financial aid office won't share confidential information that could be used to allocate textbook subsidies.

Jed Dobson said some chemistry textbooks cost students \$400 but some feel that subsidizing students with need could stigmatize them. He said the institute is looking for a way to put older texts online and making available new chapters.

It was suggested that the alumni council could ask the College for this to happen sooner rather than later.

Tom Stonecipher, our alumni council representative said he thought this was a good idea.

Jed Dobson said the writing program used to be under the English Department but in 2003-2004 the English Department decided it didn't want that program. So, Tom Corman from computer science took over as interim director. The institute came into being in 2008.

Jed Dobson, who came in 2 ½ years ago, said the institute has a churn in faculty because they are adjunct.

Dean Dennis Washburn started off by saying the institute is a free-floating unit with very soft faculty oversight and that it isn't doing the work we want it to do because "nothing is more important than basic writing skills," i.e., the institute isn't fulfilling its mandate to improve students' basic writing skills.

"We need to teach students what it means to be liberal arts thinkers across disciplines." He also said, "We want to add a big statistics course that everyone has to take."

3. The discussion then moved to the Douglass bust project. Roger Anderson recommended class support for Douglass bust.

He said the Douglass sculpture is one of the best he has seen in his studies. Joe Nathan Wright said the statue would help build cohesiveness. The proposed location is in vicinity of bust of Daniel Webster on the Rollins side of mezzanine at Rauner.

Dave Peck moved adoption of class support for the Douglass bust project up to \$10,000 which was seconded by Joe Nathan Wright.

During the ensuing discussion Roger Anderson said \$10,000 is a firm number. Motion by David Walden, second by Joe Nathan Wright, and the class committee unanimously endorsed the project. The target is to have it in place by May of this spring--possibly Green Key weekend with an opportunity for a class meeting at the same time.

4. With Parker Beverage in France, David Peck said we need to endorse class goals for this year's Alumni Fund Drive of \$350,000 with 50% participation. Gerry Bell made a motion to approve the above stated goals, Roger Witten seconded, and the proposal was approved unanimously.
5. David Peck commended Peter Hofman, Pete Wonson and Jim Lawrie for their work on the Community Service Project website. Hofman said the site is up and running. Wonson noted that we now have 40 contributors, with perhaps 19 more coming.
6. David Peck reported that 400 people attended the VOX weekend combining class officers and club officers but not spouses. The participants heard Prof. Colin Calloway talk about history of Native American students at Dartmouth since the founding of the College
7. The discussion then moved to the class constitution.
8. David Peck said one of our goals this year is updating the class constitution

Bill Rich and Roger Witten offered to help with the update, which will be presented at a future meeting.
9. \$80,000 was spent on freshmen trips from our class freshman trip fund. The class heard about a situation in this year's freshmen trip where a student was lost and almost froze to death in the woods overnight. The rescue was very expensive, and the new head of the program resigned. The endowment for the trips got a return of 7.5 percent and now is \$1,790,000.
10. Ed Heald had a meeting with Ed Miller about the Vietnam project. The 64's are looking for continued support from us and other classes. Jim Lawrie said the Class of 1968 \$10,000 donation, approved at the May meeting, was transferred to the Vietnam history project.
11. Tom Stonecipher reported on the Alumni Council meeting. He said the Class of 2023 is composed of 7% legacies. He also reported that construction is proposed for tennis courts near Topliff. Tom said he forwards comments from class members to the alumni council but doesn't know what happens to them after that.
12. Mark Waterhouse said the next content deadline for the newsletter is November 30.
13. Upcoming mini reunions include an eastern ski trip at Okemo January 27-31, a western ski trip at Mammoth Mountain in California February 29 to March 7.

14. The class is thinking about holding a celebration of our 75th birthdays in September 2021 possibly at the Greenbriar resort in West Virginia or in Charleston, South Carolina.
15. Dick Olson resigned as class secretary. He said he enjoyed his time as class secretary but wanted to focus his attention on getting out the Democratic vote in Michigan for the upcoming presidential election. David Peck said he would seek recommendations for a new class secretary.
16. The committee then discussed possible locations for the next class meeting including Boston, Washington, DC and Dallas, in the February/March timeframe. The May meeting will be in Hanover for Green Key Weekend and the dedication of the Frederick Douglass bust.
17. David Peck said he planned to soon (later that day) donate one copy of our class 50th reunion survey book to Rauner and another to the Alumni Center.
18. Jim Lawrie said we are off in dues collection, \$11-12,000 less compared to other years. After discussion Lawrie said he would check to see if the dues solicitation letters had been sent.

Gerry Bell moved to adjourn with a second from Cedric Kam. Unanimously approved.

The meeting then adjourned.